

REMARKS

Claim 51 is amended. Claims 51-56 are pending in the application.

Claims 51-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida, U.S. Patent No. 6,271,058; in view of Ohgiyama, U.S. Patent No. 6,309,909; and Toy, U.S. Patent No. 5,956,576. The Examiner is reminded by direction to MPEP § 2143 that a proper obviousness rejection has the following three requirements: 1) there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify or combine reference teachings; 2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and 3) the combined references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Claims 51-56 are allowable over Yoshida, Ohgiyama and Toy for at least the reason that the references, individually or as combined, fail to disclose or suggest each and every limitation in any of those claims.

As amended, independent claim 51 recites a method comprising forming a lid stock material into a shape of a bar having a length, having a first side, having a groove extending along the first side, and having a second side opposing the first side. Claim 51 further recites that the first and second sides have substantially equivalent widths with the second side being substantially planar across the width. The amendment to claim 51 is supported by the specification at, for example, Figs. 13 and 14, and the text at page 5, line 27 through page 6, line 6. Yoshida discloses a join means 1 having a plurality of legs for fixing to a board (col. 7, ll. 50-55). As indicated by Yoshida at column 8, lines 53-54, laterally extending portions on a front side of join means 1 are utilized during joining to a fixing pad 2 (see Figs. 8-13 and the accompanying text). At Fig. 16 and the accompanying text which is indicated as being relied upon by the Examiner, Yoshida discloses a shape of the join means 1 to provide laterally extending portions. Yoshida does not disclose or

suggest the claim 51 recited lid stock material having a groove extending along a first side and having a second side opposing the first side, where the first and second sides are of substantially equivalent widths and the second side is substantially planar across the width.

As indicated at page 2 of the present Action, Ohgiyama is relied upon as disclosing cutting a bar along a length to form a plurality of separated lids 30a. However, as combined with Yoshida, the cutting of a bar across a length as disclosed by Ohgiyama does not contribute toward suggesting the claim 51 recited forming a lid stock material into a shape having a first side and a second side of substantially equivalent widths, with the second side being substantially planar across the width. Accordingly, independent claim 51 is not rendered obvious by the combination of Yoshida and Ohgiyama.

As indicated at page 3 of the present Action, Toy is relied upon as disclosing electroplating of a microelectronic lid with nickel. However, as combined with Ohgiyama and Yoshida, the electroplating disclosed by Toy does not contribute toward suggesting the claim 51 recited forming a lid stock material into a shape of a bar having a length, having a first side with a groove extending there along and having a second side opposing the first side where the first and second sides have substantially equivalent widths and the second side is substantially planar across the width. Accordingly, independent claim 51 is not rendered obvious by the cited combination of Yoshida, Ohgiyama and Toy and is allowable over these references.

Dependent claims 52-56 are allowable over the cited combination of Yoshida, Ohgiyama and Toy for at least the reason that they depend from allowable base claim 51.

For the reasons discussed above claims 51-56 are allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests formal allowance of such claims in the Examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

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